

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 097870

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 097870 ACTION BANGKOK INFO JAKARTA

DATED 28 APR 75

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 097870

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, RB, TH

SUBJECT: CAMBODIAN REFUGEES IN THAILAND

REF: (A) BANGKOK 6761; (B) BANGKOK 6702; (C) BANGKOK 7294;
(D) JAKARTA 4940; (E) BANGKOK 7074; (F) STATE 96189;
(G) BANGKOK 7425;

1. IN REF B EMBASSY BANGKOK REPORTED ARRIVAL OF GENERAL SAK SUTSAKHAN ALONG WITH OTHER KHMER PERSONALITIES AND STATED THAT ONWARD ARRANGEMENTS FOR KHMER MILITARY WHO ARRIVED THAT DAY WERE CONSIDERED TO BE MATTER BETWEEN KHMER REFUGEES AND THAI AUTHORITIES.

2. IN REF A EMBASSY BANGKOK NOTED THAT IN ADDITION TO 1,200 POTENTIAL PAROLEES EVACUATED BY USG, EMBASSY ANTICIPATED UP TO 500 KHMER/VIETNAMEE NOW IN THAILAND AND HAVING ARRIVED BY GKR AIRCRAFT, COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT OR OVERLAND, WOULD ALSO MEET PAROLE CRITERIA.

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3. WE WELL APPRECIATE THAT EMBASSY WILL BE RECEIVING

REQUESTS FOR ASYLUM FROM A NUMBER OF THESE REFUGEES BUT WE WISH TO REITERATE IN CLEAREST TERMS GUIDELINES

ENUNCIATED BY THE CONGRESS AND WHICH WE HAVE PLEDGED OURSELVES TO OBSERVE, I.E., THAT KHMER REFUGEES THAT THE USG DID NOT EVACUATE WILL FIRST APPROACH THE THAI GOVERNMENT FOR ASYLUM AND FAILING THAT WILL PERSONALLY APPROACH INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES AND REQUEST RESETTLEMENT ASSISTANCE. ONLY AFTER FAILING IN THESE FIRST TWO STEPS MAY THE EMBASSY ENTERTAIN A REQUEST FOR PAROLE INTO THE US.

4. IN REF E BANGKOK ALSO REPORTED THAT ALMOST ONE-THIRD OF REFUGEES IN CAMP AT UTAPAO HAVE SAID THEY WOULD PREFER TO RETURN TO CAMBODIA IF CONDITIONS PERMIT.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WE REQUIRE FURTHER CLARIFICATION OR ESTIMATE OF NUMBER OF CAMBODIANS WHO WISH TO RETURN TO CAMBODIA IF CONDITIONS PERMIT AND WHAT CATEGORIES THEY COULD COME UNDER, I.E., USG EVALUATED OR NOT, CONSIDERED POTENTIAL PAROLEES OR NOT. AT APPROPRIATE TIME OR WHEN REFUGEES WHO ARE CONSIDERED USG RESPONSIBILITY AND WHO WISH TO RETURN TO CAMBODIA, EMBASSY SHOULD ARRANGE INTERVIEWS BY ICRC OR OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION THAT THEY DO IN FACT WISH TO RETURN.

6. REGARDING BANGKOK'S REQUEST IN REF C TO MOVE CAMBODIAN REFUGEES TO GUAM FOR PROCESSING, WE RECOGNIZE THAT CAMBODIAN REFUGEES ARE A BURDEN. WE ASSUME YOU ARE MOVING AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE FOR THEIR ONWARD MOVEMENT AS ALREADY INSTRUCTED, I.E., THOSE FOR WHOM WE HAVE TAKEN RESPONSIBILITY IN EVACUATION. THE STAGING AREA AT GUAM IS INTENDED FOR A LARGE NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES, AND THAT IS AT PRESENT OVER-CROWDED. WE BELIEVE THAT CAMBODIAN REFUGEES WOULD BE BETTER OFF AWAITING ONWARD MOVEMENT IN THAILAND, AND

THAT OUR OWN EFFORTS ON THEIR BEHALF WOULD BE FACILITATED.

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TED THEREBY. WE HAVE ALREADY MADE PROGRESS BY AUTHORIZING PAROLE FOR WELL OVER HALF OF THE CAMBODIAN REFUGEES IN THAILAND IN QUESTION PROVIDED THEY MEET THE CRITERIA INDICATED. WE BELIEVE THAT THE RTG SHOULD BE REASSURED BY THESE INITIAL ACTIONS THAT IT WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO SETTLE A LARGE NUMBER OF CAMBODIANS

EVACUATED FROM CAMBODIA BY THE USG.

7. RE CASE OF GENERAL SAK SUTSAKHAN IN REF D, REQUEST NAMES AND RELEVANT BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON HIM AND TEN PERSONS TO ACCOMPANY. RE CASE OF IN TAMREFTEL G, ALSO REQUEST RELEVANT BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON HIS IMMEDIATE FAMILY WHO MIGHT BE ELIGIBLE FOR PAROLE.

DEPARTMENT HAS PROVIDED FURTHER GUIDANCE IN REFTEL F,
WHICH PARTICULARLY APPLIES TO HIS FOLLOWERS, I.E., THEY
SHOULD APPLY TO UNHCR AND OTHERS FOR HELP. IN ANY EVENT
WISH TO REITERATE EARLIER INSTRUCTION THAT DEPT BE
INFORMED OF ANY PLANS TO FORCEABLY REPATRIATE KHMER.
KISSINGER

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